

When the circus comes to town!

By Mary Denis
Special to The Star

AS DR Pazyi Eganberdiyev slowly circles the main ring, the lights dim and the music lowers to a barely audible whisper. Seated in chairs inside the ring, are his subjects. A mere glance from the doctor is enough to set his patients' hands wringing in nervousness.

"I will send you into a refreshing sleep," he tells his volunteers. "You shall stay in a trance for as long as I command you."

"Relax. Breathe slowly. Lock both your hands together. Lift them above your head and let's begin," he says.

One by one he approaches the seated participants. Fixing his gaze upon their eyes, he raises his hand. Gently, he makes a sweeping motion over his subjects' foreheads and behind their heads. As he repeats the motion with every participant, each slowly falls asleep.

Dr Eganberdiyev — hypnotist, psychologist and illusionist — is one of the 30 members of the USSR State Circus Touring Company. Complete with clowns, acrobats, jugglers as well as bears, dogs, pigeons and snakes, the circus has been putting on shows in Amman to the delight of Jordanian audiences since August.

The circus, in order to survive financially, has to continually attract a large audience as it travels around the continents. To do this, the circus has a wide array of acts that seek to satisfy the tastes of the audiences' different ages.

Dr Eganberdiyev, one of the biggest draws of the circus, appears on the fully illuminated ring to the accompaniment of vibrant music, offering his anxious audience an experience of a lifetime — to participate in a hypnotic experiment.

The method of hypnosis used by Dr Eganberdiyev is based on the principles of electromagnetism. Every human body, he says, has a magnetic field around him or her which controls the behavior of an individual and is responsible, to a great extent, for many of his or her ailments.

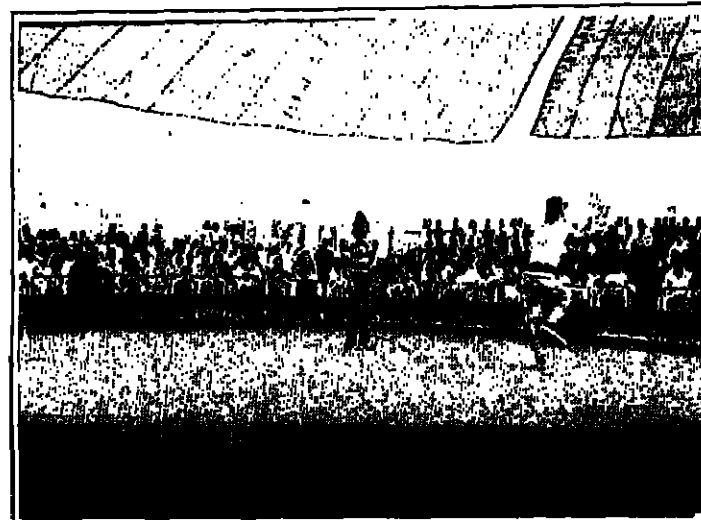
He claims to be gifted with a sense of magnetism and with the ability to control electromagnetic waves mentally. Asked if one could acquire such skills, Dr Eganberdiyev says that such an ability is an inborn gift which could be enhanced and expanded through learning and practice.

He says his skills were sharpened through his membership in the USSR Extrasenses Association, which conducts research in this field, adopts and promotes methods that could be useful in tackling scientific projects.

While sessions with patients usually leave him drained, Dr Eganberdiyev says he replenishes his electromagnetic energy by will and with the help of a proper diet. Fish, according to him, is the best food he can eat to replenish his energies.

The participants in the hypnosis experiment, interviewed afterwards, all expressed similar sensations.

"I honestly do not remember



Clowns entertain audience both young and old

anything," said Ziad. "I am really puzzled to hear your stories of what I supposedly have done in the ring."

While Dr Eganberdiyev brings a certain amount of excitement and a sense of the mysterious to his shows, the circus' performing bears bring nothing but sheer delight. Their cute clumsiness and good "skills" have won the hearts of children and parents alike.

Larissa and Boris Smirnov, owners and trainers of the circus' one Brown and two Himalayan bears, said that it was a nurturing effort which allows them to perform and train the bears.

"These adorable bears are still beasts and handling and training them isn't easy," they said. "We bought them when they were only three months old and bottle-fed these giant babies for eight months."

Playing the role of mother and father to the young cubs led to a trust factor developing between owner and animal, allowing them to properly train the bears.

"It is amazing how much power people have over bears!" Larissa and Boris with their bears



Larissa and Boris with their bears

rissa said. "They are very sensitive creatures. Once they know who the master is — who takes care of them and who feeds them — they would readily please you."

"You must always show them when you approve of them and when you are displeased with them. These ideas you strengthen either by given them food if they behave or withholding it if they misbehave. Fairly soon they get the message," she said.

The training process does not stop with the maturity of the bears. During the shows, Larissa and Boris reward the bears with biscuits for a good performance in order to continually reinforce good behavior.

While a hypnotist and dancing bears enchant the children, no circus could ever satisfy the youngster, or their parents for that matter, without the main staple of every big top — the clowns.

Sergei Sayutin and Oleg Pavlenko are well aware of their role once the paint comes on and the show begins. While they delight the audience, behind the perpetual smile is a constant concentration and an awareness of their jobs, they said.

"A clown must be equally good in juggling, acrobatics, rope-walking (and other skills)," Sergei said. "There are many good jugglers and acrobats but they do not always become clowns."

The act can be based on simple principles or something as complex as yoga. Oleg, for instance, has several stunts that incorporate basic lessons from yoga. In one, he starts by contracting his stomach muscles, alternating them with his stomach swaying in unison with a flame in hand to achieve a stunning effect.

Another part of the act involves him dislocating and relocating the joints in his arms to create an illusion similar to that of a moving snake. If not for being well-versed in yoga principles of breathing and concentration, the act could literally be a crunching one.

"In my performing these acts, the technique of breath control is vital," he said. "Controlled breathing helps the body to withstand pain. I command myself not to feel pain. The possibilities of a human mind and body are limitless." As if to illustrate, Oleg cites the part of his act in which he walks barefoot on broken glass without any cuts.

While the circus has many acts that require constant training, officials always try to incorporate something new or unusual to suit the tastes of the local audience, said Yuri Rosenberg, group director for the USSR State Touring Company. "That is why we accommodated a belly dancing item to add a local touch to the show, which seems to be very popular," he said.

Sculpture and the abstract dimension

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Star

CURRENTLY ON display at the Abdul Hamid Foundation Gallery are the works of artists Mohammad Hussein Abdullah, Abdul Raouf Sham'un and Khalid Khreis. Most pieces, whether paintings or sculptures, take on abstract dimensions.

Iraqi born Abdullah is a newcomer to Jordan, and thus this is his first show here. Unlike the other two artists, Abdullah brought along with him sculptures of different subjects. In his works, he incorporates acrylic with either clay or gypsum. Such pieces include two oval faces done in the long faced and lone nosed style of the Italian painter and sculptor Modigliani. The two faces close together are of smooth, pure clay surfaces. They lie on top of a naturally colored block of light brown wood. The earthy colors and the shape of the faces lend the work an African atmosphere. The same work is repeated in white gypsum, but in this case a modern atmosphere prevails. This modern touch is further explored in Abdullah's brightly colored figures in dark blue, green, striking red and orange.

A lot of these pieces utilize open spaces as part of the composition. A seated figure gives the impression of being reposed on a chair, but on closer observation one sees that it is reposed on pure space; the two halves of the body are divided into two equal parts and each is painted with a bright color to contrast with the other. A tangible space is evident between the two halves, and rather than distorting the balance, this harmonizes the spaces underneath and in between the anatomy.

Shape is rendered to this headless figure by the lines created in the gypsum. A knee is clearly defined and ribs are hinted at by the clean cut lines that move in the clay.

Although there are a few animal depictions, one notices that most of Abdullah's work deals with very smooth surfaces and a lot of figurative work. In some instances, he becomes less spontaneous, especially when he creates animals. For some of these sculptures become more rigid and stylized.

As for Sham'un's acrylics and water colors, his colors are reminiscent of Jamal Ashour's work where blue and mauve colors dominate the paintings. His show commences with a large painting with brightly colored strokes rendering the impression of people.

The adjacent piece is of the same subject, but with more details. As one progresses from one painting to another a development takes place: The haphazard yet studied lines combine into one mass of different colors. Sharp lines start appearing and they "create" a movement from the top towards the bottom, says the artist. These lines, which are familiar to the cubist



school, are not used as part of a study of a certain school, but they help the artist express a personal movement.

White is used dramatically against shades of gray and orange. These provide a contrast to the other larger and brighter colored acrylics and seen different in style. Sham'un again finds the word "style" monotonous. "Every exhibition should show the artist's experience, stages and the conclusion," she has arrived at. Style should not be defined as the same repeated with a slight change, he said.

The last time Sham'un exhibited was five years ago, and his work was in green. Since that time, he has been exploring blue and mauve and their relation to other colors. Out of his paintings, compiled during the last couple of years, this artist has chosen 50 to represent him at this show. To him his work is the culmination of internal reactions to external problems. As so, he does not stick to one certain subject when painting.

As to his academic background, Sham'un is a self-taught artist. He paints daily and the rest of his time is spent writing art critiques.

Unfortunately, Khalid Khreis was unable to attend this exhibition. He is presently on a scholarship program at the Academy of Fine Arts in Barcelona for his doctorate. His mixed media work have been brought in by his wife Clara, who is also an artist. It is typical of his "style" and speaks for itself. Khreis makes use of pastel shades of browns and blues. The strong black lines that give way to arch here or an alley there are ever present. Details are created by the use of the paper, which lends texture to walls and buildings. The only lines are black and they emphasize the artist's focal point. Some of the work, though, does show a slight difference. The lines form the form of crescents and ended circles set off by a background.

These paintings are surrounded by the same aura as Abdullah's African-like sculptures. The display is open to the public until 27 October.

What to look for in the Amman Computer Expo

The Star

The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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Design: Ahmad Humaid

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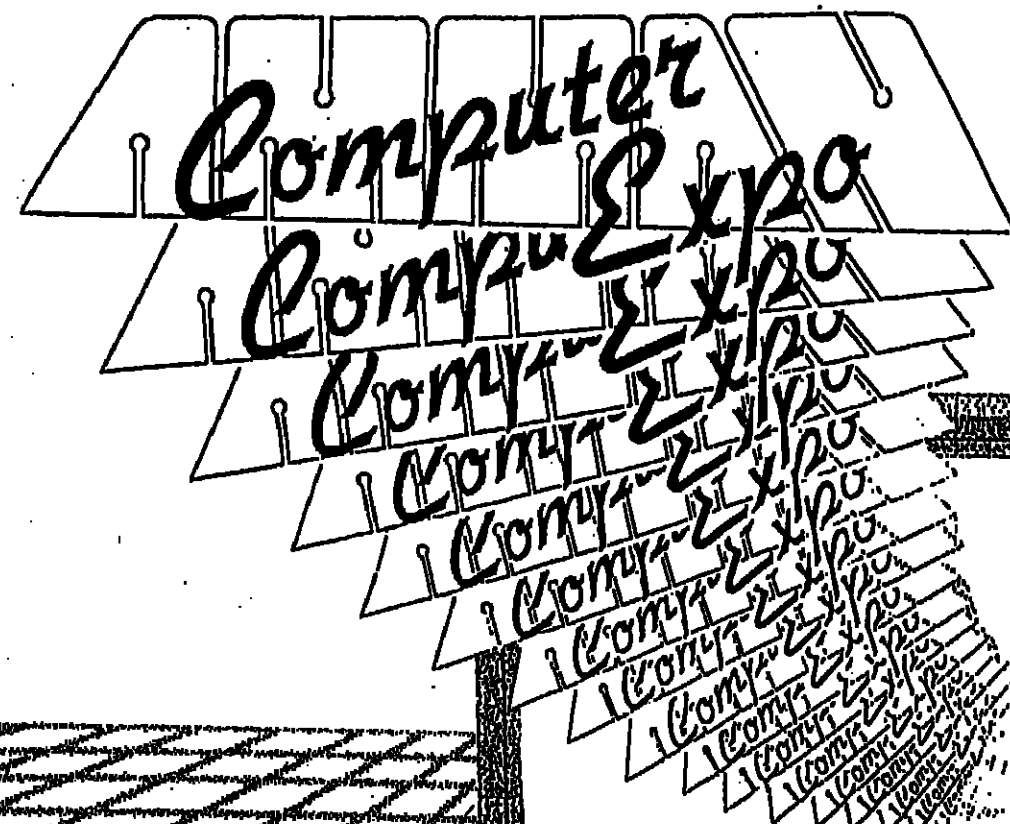
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JORDAN

THE STAR 3

Managing the economy

New confidence emerges

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

BANKS BRIMMING with money, thanks to the move to the Gulf, major expansions at the Jordan and phosphate companies as 1991 draws to an end, Jordan's economy presents a more positive picture than anyone could have expected at the beginning of the year.

Many elements that were seen as purely negative have turned out to have a positive side. The loss of exports to traditional markets has forced manufacturers to explore new areas. Jordanians returning from the Gulf are now being seen not just as a burden on services and the job market, but as a group with resources, ideas and energy who can help to stimulate new economic activity.

In fact the Gulf crisis overall has had unexpected positive effects on Jordan. In the months following 2 August of last year, it seemed as if everything that could go wrong with Jordan's economy had gone wrong. Export and aid losses, the tourism downturn and the devastation of the transport sector added up to a bleak picture. Yet Jordan's economy survived and has developed a new confidence. The feeling of fragility that has always marked attitudes to the country's economic and political life has been replaced by the realization that Jordan can actually cope. The Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. (JPMC) and the Arab Potash Co. (APC) now have major plans for expansion, the Jordan Industrial Estates Corp. (JIEC) can't keep up with demand for new factory space, Amman looks like a bustling lot while Aqaba's port is busy and the tourists are back crowding its hotels.

Clearly Jordan is back in business. But not all is smooth sailing, the questions of government finances, the foreign debt burden and unemployment stand out. During the Gulf crisis the government was able to put the problems of debt and economic restructuring on hold but now they have to be faced. Jordan can expect a reasonably sympathetic hearing from both the IMF and the World Bank, and from its Arab Club creditors, but serious decisions on government spending and revenue generation will have to be made.

Private business won't enjoy the expected rise in the cost of oil but the other side of the structural adjustment programs is pressure for a shrinking of government and the expansion of the private sector activity. This can already be seen in small ways with the Telecommunications Corp. (TCC) plans for private sector cooperation and efforts by the Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC) to involve private consultancy firms in its activities.

Job creation is a lengthy and expensive process and high levels of unemployment are likely to place a strain on society in the coming year. Government programs for job creation, substitution of foreign workers and efforts to place Jordanian workers abroad can help, but only a substantial growth in private sector activity can really solve the problem. The continued harass-

ment of shipping at Aqaba is also a barrier to economic revival.

The political cost of Jordan's stand during the crisis has not been as serious as predicted. Re-

lations with the United States have been repaired quickly, aid packages from Japan and Europe have been good, the revival of

Continued on next page

Economic recovery depends on political stability, Sallakh

By a Star Staff Writer

THE GENERAL Manager of ANZ Grindlays, Mr Adnan Al Sallakh, says that he expects the banks' liquidity surplus to continue "due to the lack of new projects and limited opportunities available in the market." He says that this problem will adversely affect the profitability of Jordanian banks.

However, Mr Sallakh says that economic recovery largely depends on the political situation and regional stability. He says investors should look into small-scale industries and food stuff producing factories, especially those depending on local raw materials. "This will obviously reduce the dependence on imported goods and thus lead to saving of foreign currency resources," Mr Sallakh says.

He says that the government revision of the foreign investments law will hopefully "attract substantial foreign investments."

Mr Sallakh says that dealing with Jordan's economic problems means giving the private sector the freedom to expand. "Employment depends on expansion of the private sector which can only be achieved once market conditions improve," he says.



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Managing the economy

Investments should be geared towards industry, Salfiti

By a Star Staff writer

MR ISSAM SALFITI, general manager of the Union Bank for Savings and Investment (UBSI), believes the Jordanian economy is recovering and that signs are indicating an end to the recession. "We are around the bottom of the recession. The economy has started to pick up," says Mr Salfiti who says his bank is geared to finance development projects especially in industry.

The signs he is talking about include the fresh demand on real estate and the surge in new projects started by Jordanian expatriates who are coming into the market with sophisticated ideas. "I see a change in the attitude of expatriates (towards investing in Jordan)," says Mr Salfiti.

Other encouraging indicators involve an increase in bank deposits and a rise in the King-

dom's foreign currency reserves. "You have to remember that our problems (in Jordan and the region) are mainly political. Slowly these problems will be solved," says the Jordanian banker.

He sees great rewards in opening the doors wide to foreign investors because they could offer a solution to the country's endemic unemployment problem.

"We should encourage foreign investors, especially Iraqis, to come to Jordan and set up their business," says Mr Salfiti. In his opinion, Jordan still offers a lucrative investment base, but to reach that stage, the country must be geared towards services.

Mr Salfiti staunchly calls for a revision in a number of laws and regulations that currently impede foreign and local investments including the income tax law.

"The country's future is in in-



dustrialization," says Mr Salfiti.

"We think we will be better placed in that sector." His bank is already involved in financing different industrial projects and so far the results have been excellent.

Mr Salfiti said that just as interest rates have gone down so will lending rates, which already started their downward trend by about half per cent. "Given the right atmosphere we will absorb

the excess liquidity (now flooding the banking sector)." He says he agrees with the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) policy of controlling the number of banks in Jordan and halting the issue of new licenses. He says he believes the CBJ will eventually force all banks to increase their capitals or seek mergers.

Mr Salfiti, whose family managed one of the biggest money change bureaux in Jordan before the 1988 government clampdown, says while the new draft law for money exchange companies is complicated, all banks should be allowed to carry out money exchange activities. He believes money changers should be allowed to work in a controlled environment. "If the new law means allowing money changers to work like banks, then why should we have banks?" says Mr Salfiti.

He is happy that international banks have changed their attitudes towards Jordan and are now looking favorably to it. Currently the Union Bank for Savings and Investment, which began in 1979 as the Arab Finance Corp. before becoming an investment bank last year, offers a wide range of investment development activities including the running of portfolios, Amman Financial Market stock management, financing exports and imports, foreign exchange and gold. "We prefer to stay as an investment bank," says Mr Salfiti. "We have too many commercial banks. Eventually market forces will compel banks to do the same things."

He says UBSI is looking for a bigger share of the market and that responses to their recent campaigns have been favorable as their total assets increased by 25 per cent in the last three months. The JD 7.2 million public shareholding company has five branches and working to open another three.

New confidence emerges

Continued from page 3

the Egypt-Jordan electricity grid link and the reopening of Saudi Arabia to Jordanian trucks also point to a restoration of regional relationships.

Jordan also has economic possibilities that have scarcely been explored. Its 1977 cooperation agreement with the European Community gives Jordan privileged economic treatment. Jordan's industrial products enjoy the same access to community markets as the Community's own products and its agricultural products also enjoy privileged access, yet this massive market has scarcely been touched.

The markets of Yemen, Iraq, Libya and eastern Europe can also help to give Jordan's exporters a wider range of possibilities that will lessen its traditional heavy dependence on key markets.

The loss of Jordan's major export market, Iraq, remains a problem with no solution in sight. But once the Iraqi market does revive, Jordan's exporters should have found new markets elsewhere and Iraq will be what it should always have been — an important customer but not one so dominant that its fortunes lead Jordan's.

Political developments remain a key to the future. If Madrid brings a genuine peace and a solution of the Palestinian problem, even a start on the road to a genuine peace, it will open up enormous economic opportunities.

The easing of tension and the opening of long closed borders offer the potential for a major growth in trade. Progress towards peace will encourage both local and foreign investment. Regional cooperation necessary for sustained growth could go ahead. The question of water supply is crucial. Jordan is already suffering from a water shortage and plans for in-

Continued on opposite page

By a Star Staff Writer

THE BANKING sector is in the process of regaining the level of activities it held before the Gulf war and it has done that, said Jordan Arab Investment Bank Director General Mr Abdel Qader Al Qadi. He said that the level of foreign assets of licensed banks in Jordan in October 1990 was JD 638 million compared to JD 901 million, which is the level reached in July 1991.

Mr Al Qadi said loans and advances reached JD 1007 million in July 1991 compared to JD 954 million in October 1990. "This small increase indicates that lending by the banks has not picked up and it would take time for banks to see that the level of risk in lending reduced," Mr Al Qadi said.

On the liabilities side, banks have improved their level of deposits. Demand deposits for resi-

dents have increased from JD 419 million in October 1990 to JD 537 million in July 1991.

Saving and time deposits for residents increased from JD 1525 million in October 1990 to JD 1782 million in July 1991, while deposits for non-residents increased from JD 351 million in October 1990 to JD 493 million in July 1991. "So, we can see that the financial aggregates on the liabilities side have recovered," Mr Al Qadi said. "What remains is the recovery of the financial aggregates on the assets side, which will be achieved when banks increase the levels of their credit facilities and investment."

He said that there is an indication that this is happening, but at a slow pace. The process will speed up as economic activity continues to pick up and confidence with the business sector is restored.

On the issue of liquidity, Mr Al Qadi said the high level of liquidity is attributed to reduction in the lending level compared to the amount of deposits banks are receiving. "If we look at the level of credit facilities extended by licensed banks, we see that it reached JD 1918 million in July 1991," Mr Al Qadi said. "But if we were to calculate the lending capacity of the banking sector based on the deposits that they have received and after adjusting for required reserves, we find that it has reached JD 2400 million in July 1991."

So what happened to the difference (JD 482 million) which would have been lent? We find that JD 236 million of that was deposited with the Central Bank.

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New confidence emerges

Continued from page 4

Industrial and agricultural expansion can proceed only if water supplies are guaranteed.

Jordan is well placed as a center for revived regional activity. Despite the problems of the past, it still has the most comprehensive regional political ties. Its infrastructure is well established and, after three years of economic crisis and adjustment, has a private sector that is better equipped than any in the region to take the offensive in building a new regional economy.

Managing the economy

Banks regain pre-Gulf War levels, Al Qadi

in addition to the bank's required reserves. The rest (JD 246 million) was channeled into the inter-bank market."

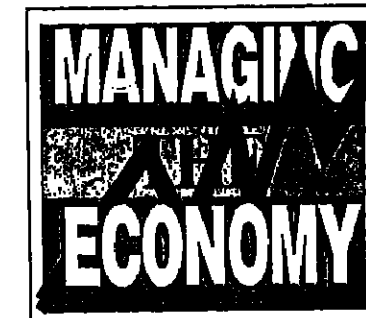
Mr Al Qadi said that the problem of liquidity is due to structural factors such as the lack of depth of the financial system as a whole. "Banks should not aggravate such a problem," he said. "Instead they should try and reduce liquidity by increasing the level of credit facilities and other investments." Unfortunately, investors are limited by the type of

investments they can get into on the domestic level. Either they put their money in deposits and government bonds or invest in the local stock market, he continued.

Deposits and government bonds which attract an interest rate of 7% - 9%, should appeal to those investors who are short-term oriented and who would like to stay very close to being liquid, Mr Al Qadi added.

Foreign investors, on the other hand, can be attracted to invest-

ing in Jordan if they can have high return on their investment with low risk and a minimum of laws and regulations regarding their investment activities. "We believe that the proposed investment law prepared by the Ministry of Industry and Trade last September goes a long way in liberalizing the laws and regulations governing foreign investment," Mr Al Qadi said. He said the proposed law gives the non-Jordanian investor the same rights and privileges accorded to

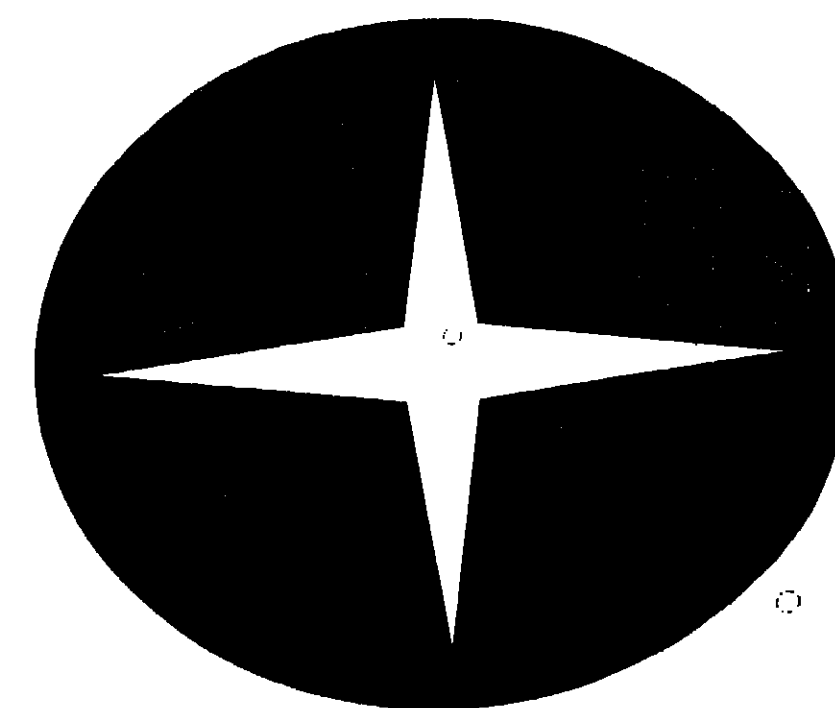


Jordanian investors. Under the proposed law foreign investors can transfer all profits and interests earned outside the country without any condition. "We believe that laws of this nature will provide a better climate for the foreign investor," Mr Al Qadi said.

Continued on next page

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By a Star Staff Writer
& agencies reports

Only days away...

Jordan and the Palestinians get their act together in preparation for that historic day in Madrid.

THE MIDDLE East peace conference will take place three days after the ceremonial opening, in bilateral negotiations between the Israelis on the one side, and the Arabs on the other through specialized committees.

The most important rounds of negotiations will take place three days after the ceremonial opening, in bilateral negotiations between the Israelis on the one side, and the Arabs on the other through specialized committees. One of the complicated issues was solved last week when the PLO gave its consent for a Palestinian delegation to attend the conference jointly with a Jordanian delegation. The list containing names of Palestinian representatives from the West Bank and Gaza was given to US Secretary of State James Baker before his travel to Israel earlier this week.

Later on, Palestinian personality Faisal Husseini, who was named by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat as head of the Palestinian team to Madrid announced the names of the Palestinian team, which was divided into a negotiating and an advisory teams. The negotiation delegation, which is comprised of 14 personalities from the occupied territories, is as follows:

Dr. Haider Abdel Shafi, president of the delegation.

Dr. Samir Abdallah, Dr. Sami Kilani, Dr. Ghassan Al Khattab, Mr. Elias Freij, Mr. Mustafa Natsheh, Dr. Nabil Al Jabari, Dr. Nabil Qassis, Dr. Abdel Rahman Hamad, Dr. Zakaria Al Agha, Dr. Mamdouh Al Aker, Mr. Freih Abu Medain, Mr. Sameh Kan'an and Dr. Saeb Ureikat.

The advisory panel is comprised of the following:

Mr. Faisal Husseini, Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, Dr. Sari Nuseibeh, Mrs. Zuhair Kamal, Dr. Kameel Mansour, Mr. Rashid Khaldi and Mr. Anis Al Qasem.

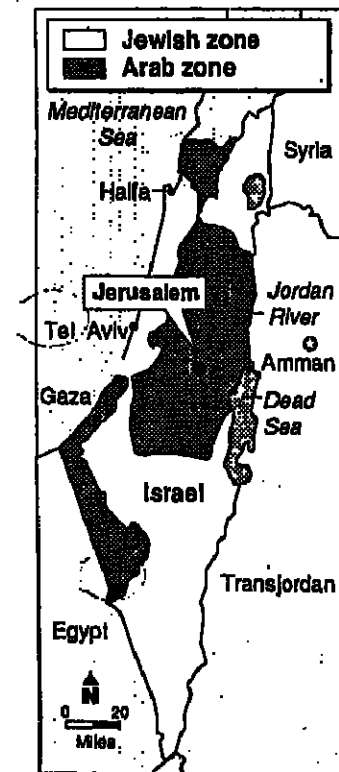
The Palestinian solution to the presence of Jerusalem-based Palestinians, which is to put them on an advisory committee not to be allowed to enter the negotiations hall, was seen as a shrewd move on the PLO's part to by-

The Palestinians: People without a country

A key to achieving Mideast peace is settling Palestinian-Israeli dispute.

Palestine divided

In 1947, United Nations divided Palestine into Jewish, Arab zones, declared Jerusalem a free city.



Palestinians in Israel today

During more than 40 years of conflict, the Israelis seized and occupied Palestinian areas.

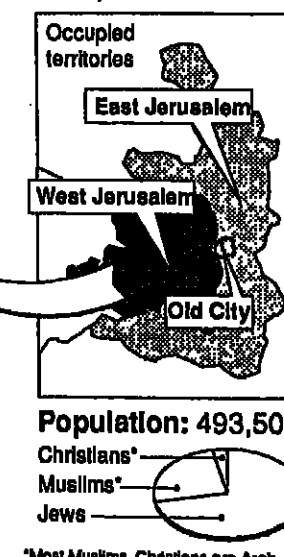


Jerusalem: Under Israeli control

Palestinians, Arabs want to regain East Jerusalem.

West Jerusalem: Controlled by Israel since 1948

East Jerusalem: Controlled by Jordan 1948-1967; taken by Israel during 1967 war; declared Israel's capital in 1980 (not recognized by most other nations)



Population: 493,500

Christians
Muslims
Jews

*Most Muslims, Christians are Arab

pass an Israeli veto. The Israelis, who did not object to the Palestinian list of negotiators had later made comments that they will not negotiate with Palestinians who make it clear that they are associated with the PLO.

Meanwhile, the Jordanians were to announce the names of their own delegation on Wednesday.

Members of the Palestinian delegation are expected in Amman on Friday to begin coordination with the Jordanian delega-

tion. The joint delegation, which will be headed by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, will be leaving for Madrid on Tuesday 29 October. Sources told The Star that Jordan and the Palestinians agreed on a formula for understanding and cooperation between them at various stages of the negotiations. The agreements call for including members of the Palestinian advisory panel into the 45-strong Jordanian delegation. Palestinians will deal directly with the Palestini-

ans dimension of the talks, the sources added.

On the other hand, Minister of Information Mr. Mahmoud El-Sherif told The Star Wednesday that Jordan was still in the process of formulating the Jordanian delegation to the conference and that a complete list has not been formalized yet. The Jordanian cabinet met on Wednesday to discuss the composition of the Jordanian delegation and it was expected to announce the names later in the day or on Thursday. But sources revealed that the Jordanian delegation will in-

clude Jordanians from both the East and West banks of Jordan.

On the Damascus meeting of the Arab foreign ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and the head of the Political Dept. of the PLO, Mr. El-Sherif said that Jordan was keen on coordinating with other members of the Arab bloc. He added that Jordan was keen on seeing all parties concerned agree on a strategy on how to handle the negotiations. Mr. El-Sherif praised the way Jordan and the Palestinians coordinated their moves so far.

He said that Jordan and the Palestinians will consult and coordinate in all stages of negotiations. He added that the Jordanian delegation will have two points of reference, one on the spot in Madrid and the other in Amman, while the Palestinian delegation "we assume" will have the PLO as its reference. Mr. El-Sherif did not expect a meeting among the leaders of the Arab countries concerned before the convening of the peace conference because of the time limitations.

The Israeli Knesset voted overwhelmingly on Sunday to attend the Madrid conference by 16 to 3. But Israeli right-wing parties supporting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir threatened to withdraw from the government if the negotiations lead to discussing Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Meanwhile, Shamir ruled out on Tuesday any change in Israel's borders. Speaking before the European parliament on Tuesday, Shamir cautioned against hopes for a quick account in the peace talks.

"Relinquishing this area (the West Bank) is an invitation to war," he said. "The area would turn into a launching pad for an attack against the heartland of Israel. We can never permit this to happen."

Israeli press reported Tuesday that Shamir was thinking of attending the opening of the Madrid conference. Israeli observers said that he will try to mend relations with Washington strained over the \$10 billion loan guarantee request, and get personal assurances from President Bush on matters relating to Israel's security, PLO participation and withdrawal from the territories. ■

Banks achieve recovery

Continued from page 5

As to the problem of unemployment in Jordan, Mr. Al Qadi believes it is long-term and cannot be dealt with during the coming months, but within the coming years. "The private sector does have a role to play to increase investment in the country which leads to higher levels of employment," he said.

But he said that dealing with the unemployment situation can be done in two stages: The immediate stage and the long-run stage. In the immediate stage, industries should try to regain their production levels held before the Gulf War. This means that they have to regain their lost markets or find substitutes in order to expand their production and level of employment.

"So, there is no sense of talking about increasing the levels of employment if industries cannot find markets for their products whether domestic or foreign," Mr. Al Qadi said. "The long-run

stage comes when existing industries expand and/or new ones are established. The private sector at this point would have a role to play by investing in the Amman Financial Market not as a speculator but as a long-term investor.

"The individual investor would have to choose the companies in which he would like to invest. We believe that companies with targets in the industrial sector are good targets, but the investors should not limit themselves to investing in one particular sector," said Mr. Al Qadi.

But he added that the private sector should know that there is more to investment than real estate where most of the private sector's money is going.

"Ways and means would have to be devised to encourage the private sector to channel their investment into other productive sectors of the economy not just real estate," he said. ■

Amnesty International hopes to form Jordan section soon

By Christina Malak
Special to the Star

AMNESTY International celebrated its 30th anniversary last week. Jordanian Amnesty groups held a three-day conference at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) to enlighten the public on AI's activities in the region and worldwide.

The ten local Jordanian AI groups were praised for their work in Jordan by two visiting officials. During the meetings, a number of topics were discussed including the human rights situation in Jordan and the Arab world, and international conventions.

A gathering on human rights was presided over by Dr. Abdul Qader, a visiting AI official, and Mr. Mohammed Al-Jarrah, a professor of law at Yarmouk University.

Local AI groups have been laying the groundwork for the formation of a full AI chapter in Jordan. The groups work with other indigenous organizations and institutions around a world to build a cohesive culture on human rights.

The groups hold training workshops in order to recruit new members and train them in the rights and ethics of AI's code of conduct. The first such training course was set up in Amman and lasted between 9-14 October. There are now 10 local AI groups in Jordan, each of which has between 10 to 20 members.

A program by AI to establish a chapter in the Arab world began in 1984, but had reached Jordan in April of last year. Jordan was identified as a priority country because of its democratic process, where AI, which was founded in 1961 in London by lawyer Peter Benenson, was able to work through local groups.

The Jordanian government has supported the establishment of the local Amnesty groups and given assurances that it will not act against the organizations. According to Mr. Robert Brown of AI who was also in Jordan last week, the national chapter will most probably be formed in Jordan in the near future.

On the international level, the Amnesty groups have maintained a high profile through their links with the head office in London. But in Jordan, they are independent of action, the local groups send numerous letters and petitions to governments around the world asking for the urgent release of prisoners of conscience.

For instance, a campaign asking for the release of 40 prisoners in Morocco resulted in 24 of them being freed so far. The Moroccan campaign is the local group's most successful so far, Mr. Brown added. Last year, the group launched a campaign to free women in different countries. These women were either themselves or a sister, mother or a prisoner. The local groups are constantly promoting human rights, they launch major campaigns every two to three months.

Two AI officials who visited Jordan participated in a number of seminars in which members of AI's organization discussed the importance of the national level.

Mr. Wilson expressed appreciation for the work that has been carried out by the local groups in spreading the principles of human rights to Jordanian society and for their participation in human rights campaigns. "We do really have great hopes for the movement here in Jordan," he said.

One member of a local group, Anwar Qahwaji, said, "I became a member just two months ago. It was out of my conscience. If I can do something and help another person, I will."

AI seeks the release of prisoners of conscience, who were detained because of their beliefs, religion, color, language, ethnic origin or sex and who do not resort to violence.

AI has more than 50 sections

around the world, which are responsible for and speak on behalf of the organization in the country itself.

In the Arab World, there are now local groups in Tunis, Algeria, Egypt and Jordan.

The one million-strong members of AI are spread over 150 countries in Africa, North and South America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. During the past six months, AI has taken care of more than 3000 cases worldwide, of whom all have been opinion prisoners. Of these 753 cases have been closed and the others are still under study.

On the situation in the occupied territories, Mr. Wilson said, "From the beginning, we have recognized the importance of Amnesty's structure in the West

Bank and Gaza. We have done numerous visits and there is a lot of interest there.

"Even though most Palestinians live under often desperate conditions, there is nevertheless a recognition that an Amnesty group in the territories would have power and strength," Mr. Wilson said.

An appeal letter from somebody inside the occupied territories would have a great impact, he said. "Someone there who is suffering himself from repression and yet is concerned enough to write a letter of appeal on behalf of people suffering from repression in other countries would truly be effective," Mr. Wilson said.

But he added that although conditions are difficult, there are

encouraging signs coming from the occupied territories, which he will visit next week to talk to the Palestinians and see what the possibilities there are to form AI groups.

Mr. Wilson, who is an Arabist, has been involved with AI for six years. His interest was aroused when he spent three years in the West Bank and Gaza.

During his stay in the occupied areas, he worked as a teacher in the Birzeit University and for a number of press agencies before joining AI's Middle East department. Why? Because "What I saw in the occupied territories when I was there, made me want to do something about it," explained Mr. Wilson. ■



TORONTO. SAME DAY

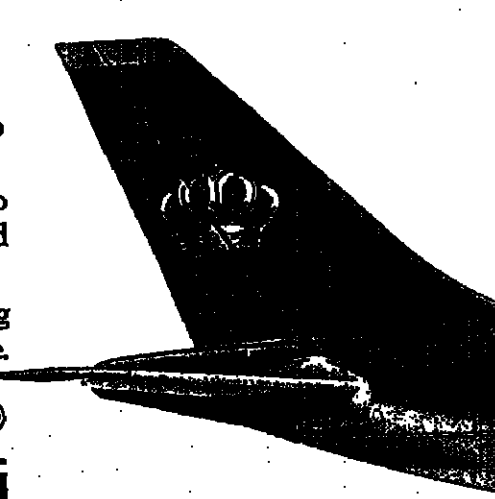
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ROYAL JORDANIAN

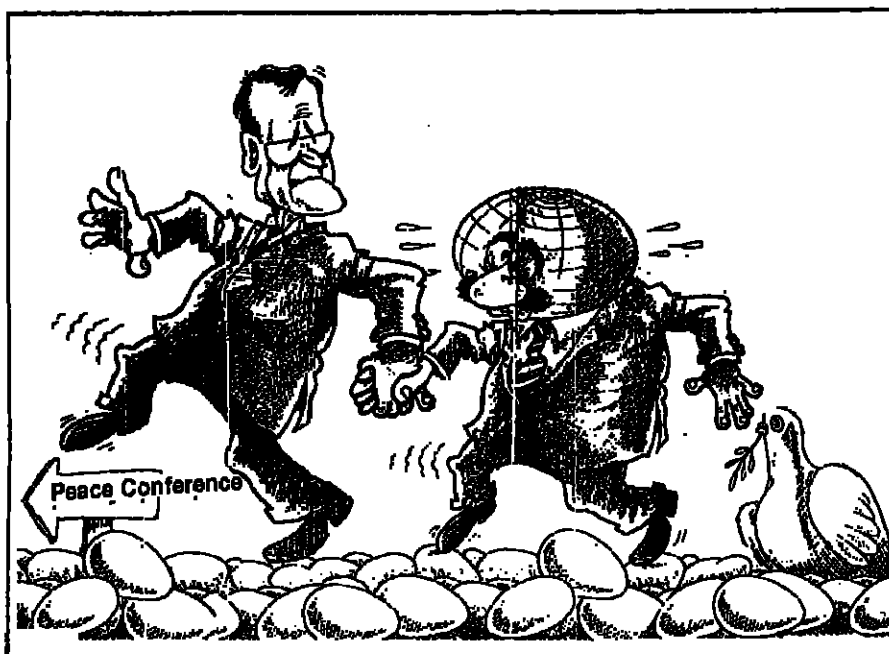


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Our Say....

Stating our case

THE CONVENING of the Middle East peace conference next week will be a triumph for the forces of peace in the world everywhere. We have to believe in this if our participation as Jordanians, Palestinians and Arabs, is to have a meaningful justification. It is going to be a challenge of wills; between the will to have a just and durable peace in this region of the world, and the will to usurp the rights of other nations and disregard the laws and conventions that govern our world today. It is going to be a test for the survival of law and order in the face of lawlessness and anarchy. Furthermore, it is going to be a cornerstone for building a better future for the peoples of the Middle East. It is going to pave the way for a new order here in the Arab world based on justice and respect of other people's rights.

So we go to the peace conference with this in mind. But we also go to Madrid with conflicting emotions, sad memories and bitter experiences. We go there remembering the sacrifices made by countless magnitude of brave men and women who sacrificed their lives to defend a just cause. We remember the wars, the massacres and the streams of refugees crossing from one border into another, from world into another and from life into another. We remember the war of 1967, the victories of 1973, the invasion of Lebanon and the massacres of Sabra and Shatilla, the Camp David peace accords and the conferences and meetings that took place during the past forty years or so.

We go to the conference to make peace with an enemy we fought for many decades. And as we sit with that enemy we remember the bitterness and the sufferings that came along with our struggle against this enemy's blind and revolting ambitions. Still, our pain and that trail of endless memories, should not waver us from the goals and objectives of the Madrid conference. We go there to continue our struggle and to re-assert our belief in the cause and in the defence in what we believe in. We have to believe that if our sitting with the enemy is to have a meaning and is to be justified to the generations that will come after us.

We go to Madrid not as a defeated nation, but as a nation that resisted when the odds were against it and when the world stood by and let the enemy carry out its hideous designs for our land and people. We go there with the bitter-sweet memories of our struggle against Israel still fresh in our minds. We sit and negotiate with Israel not to make compromises, but to re-affirm our rights before the whole world and for the sake of those who sacrificed themselves for the cause because we owe it to them.

We go to Madrid with a message of peace, a just peace based on law and conventions. We go there to make a peace that will last — an honorable peace. We are prepared for that moment, that historic moment of sitting with an enemy we fought for many decades, an enemy that still fights us and still brandishes the gun in our faces. But we are not there to talk to Israel only. We are there to make our case clear to the whole world. A case we have not stopped believing in its justice and sacredness, not for a single moment. Our negotiators will have our support because we know for sure that just as we are certain of the validity and equity of our cause, so are they. ■

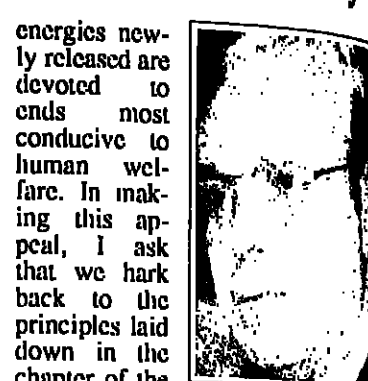
On UN Day New horizons for humanity

The United Nations celebrates its 45th anniversary this week. On this occasion UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar delivered the following message:

AS WE observe United Nations day, 24 October, for this year, we see new horizons opening for humanity's political advance. We have ample cause for gratification. The role of our organization is no longer peripheral and its purpose no longer questioned. It has proved both its relevance and its capability. It has become the rallying point for the effort to establish a new order of peace and justice that would promote human rights and eradicate poverty and other social plagues.

At the moment, we stand at a delicate point in the search for such an order. While an old axis of conflict has disappeared, a volatile situation raises new questions pertaining to stability. While our search for comprehensive peace has been unshackled from old habits of thought, it is in danger of being distracted by newer eruptions of hate and prejudice. We do not forget the suffering and violence that continue to blot the human scene.

I appeal to the leaders of peoples to ensure that freedoms recently gained and



energies newly released are devoted to ends most conducive to human welfare. In making this appeal, I ask that we hark back to the principles laid down in the charter of the United Nations. Indeed, today the mandate of the organization gains further scope and comes into sharper focus than it ever did before. As I am sending out this message, my term of office draws to its close. I want to express my warmest thanks to all who participated in, or contributed to, the great projects of peace during the last years. They can be rightly proud that many of these tasks have achieved their aim. Others also promise to bear fruit. Still others no doubt will follow in future. All these undertakings restore and maintain the sense of mission with which the organization was imbued at the time of its creation. This is the most precious resource of the United Nations. ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sheikh Yasin and the Israeli sense of Justice

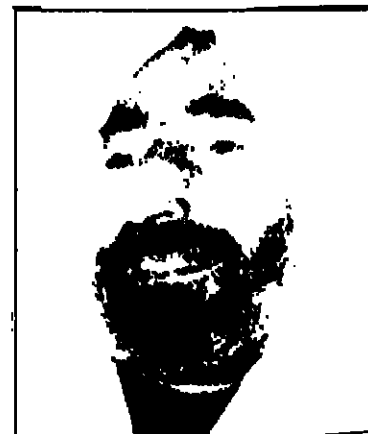
To the Editor:

ONE COULD hardly believe one's eyes seeing, on the news, a disabled old man being sentenced by an Israeli court to life plus 15 years imprisonment. The justification for such an outrageous sentence was announced to be that the old man, Sheikh Ahmad Yasin, posed a threat to Israel's security.

Furthermore, the same old man had been in Israeli detention awaiting the trial for more than two and a half years, and his trial was postponed several times. During his detention period, he was harassed, tortured and beaten and his health condition deteriorated. He had to be taken to the military hospital several times.

Israel's brutality has set a record. The Jews who claim to be victims of Nazi practices are exceeding all bounds in inflicting physical and psychological suffering on Palestinian detainees. Indiscriminate shooting of civilians, demolition of houses, confiscation of lands, detention of thousands of men, women, children and elderly citizens. In addition to the deportation of scores of activists are all examples of Zionist repressive measures.

The issue of Sheikh Ahmad Yasin is a special case. It deserves world attention.



Sheikh Yasin

His detention and sentence by Zionist courts constitute an overt violation of human rights, international norms and laws. It is evident that the Israelis meant to try Sheikh Yasin at this particular time in order to escape world attention, since most of the attention has been directed to the preparations for the peace conference.

It is most regrettable that the United States, the Soviet Union and the European states which are co-sponsoring the peace process have made no attempt to intervene and save the disabled, ill and elderly Sheikh Yasin. Such powers could at least have shown some concern if they were really anxious to accomplish a permanent peace in the Middle East.

The trial of Sheikh Yasin has proved beyond doubt that the Zionist authorities are not serious about establishing a lasting peace in the region. If this is the Israeli sense of justice, no peaceful settlement can ever be guaranteed to endure. ■

Azzam Tamimi

Letters to the editor should be sent to P O Box 9313, Amman, Jordan. The Star reserves the right to edit the letters for reasons of space or clarity. All letters must be signed.

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Mahmoud El-Sherif
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
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Hamdan Al-Haj

While diplomats debate land for peace, Palestinians are losing their land and water

By Dr Thomas R. Mattair

THE ABU Tair clan has lived in the village of Oum Tuba, southeast of Jerusalem, for 1,200 years. Its members hold title to the land granted in 1873 by the Ottoman Turkish authorities, who ruled much of the Arab world at that time. Last year, the clan applied to the Jerusalem municipality for a license to build some houses and a school on some of their open land, but no answer was given. Instead, in early June 1991, the family read a notice in a Palestinian newspaper that the Israeli government was confiscating 150 acres of the family's land — as well as adjacent land belonging to other villagers — in order to build a new Jewish settlement.

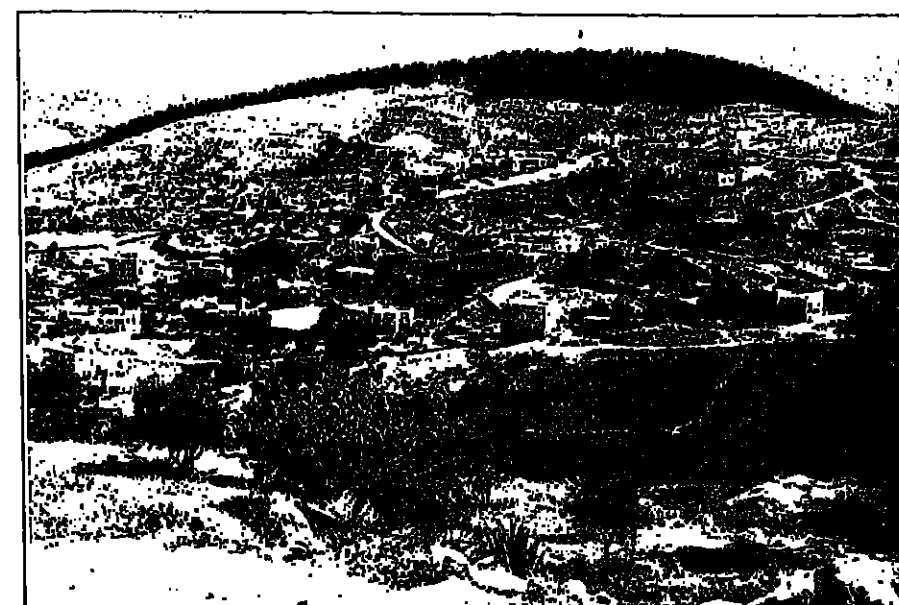
The villagers of Oum Tuba will not be able to build housing for their expanding population. The almond and olive trees and grape vines planted on this land that provide crops for consumption and for sale will be bulldozed. There will be no land left for the grazing of this village's sheep. Their legal appeals will fall on deaf ears.

This story has been repeated again and again in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, and in the Gaza Strip as well, during the 24 years since Israel occupied the land and subjugated the people during the 1967 war. Along with the widespread confiscation of private property of Arab landowners in order to make way for the construction of new Jewish settlements, Israeli authorities have systematically exploited the water from the West Bank aquifer by digging wells deeper than existing Palestinian Arab wells, by preventing the Palestinians from deepening their own wells or digging new ones, by restricting the amount Palestinians can draw from their wells, and by charging Palestinians about six times as much per cubic meter of water from the aquifer as Israeli users are charged.

Israel took 300 million cubic metres of water from the aquifer last year for Jewish settlements and for Israel itself, whereas the Palestinian Arab intake from the aquifer was reduced to 100 million cubic metres to provide for villages, towns, cities, people and farmland. As a result of the curtailed Palestinian consumption of the aquifer's water, the villagers of Kufir Eln had water piped in only one day per week this summer. Farmers in Jericho could plant crops on only 30 per cent of their cultivable land this year, and average use in some areas of the West Bank has dropped below the 44 litres per capita per day that the UN indicates is necessary to maintain minimal health standards. Inasmuch as the West Bank's aquifer is being overutilized by about 80 million cubic metres per year, Palestinian access to this traditional water source will further diminish in future years.

In early July, Housing Minister Ariel Sharon promised an enthusiastic audience at Maale Adumin, a Jewish settlement in the Jerusalem area, which may soon be the first such settlement to achieve the status of a city, that Israel would never withdraw from the occupied territories and that the ambitious settlement program the Israeli government is implementing with these will continue.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir regularly makes the same promises. Palestinian Arabs, on the other hand, can only watch the continued seizure of their land and water. Thousands of acres of land and hundreds of millions of cubic metres of water have been taken from them just since Secretary of State James



The village of Oum Tuba; on the hillside in the background is village property confiscated by the Israelis

Baker's first meeting with Palestinian leaders on March 12 of this year in Jerusalem.

In December of 1987, frustrated and angry with Israel's occupation policies, that Palestinian population erupted into an Intifada, a "rising up and shaking off" that initially took the form of throwing rocks at Israeli soldiers and settlers throughout the occupied territories. Almost 1,000 Palestinian Arabs, many of them children, teenagers and women, have died as the result of Israeli gunfire since the Intifada began.

Fourteen-year-old Ibrahim Muhammad Abu Safiyyeh, from the village of Beit Siran near Ramallah, was shot dead by Israeli soldiers in early June when he refused to stop for identification after soldiers had been stoned in the area. Tens of thousands of Palestinians — again, many of them children, teenagers and women — have been wounded, many of them left quadriplegic or paraplegic as a result of Israeli gunfire.

Many of those, like 16-year-old Fikri Abdul Rahim of Tulkarim, a paraplegic since being shot by Israeli soldiers in July 1991, were killed or wounded while confronting Israeli military patrols or spray painting political graffiti on the walls of their refugee camps, towns and villages. However, there are other victims of random and unprovoked brutality as well.

One of them, 25-year-old Omar Manasrah, was shot in late June from a range of one meter by a Jewish settler who stopped a taxi at gunpoint on a road near Hebron and fired point-blank through the open window at the driver and at Omar Manasrah, leaving him a paraplegic. According to Dr Farouk Abdel Rahmin, the director of East Jerusalem's Makassed Hospital, the permanently disabled are an economic burden on their families that charitable institutions cannot begin to alleviate.

Currently, about 14,000 Palestinians are imprisoned in the territories, many of them never having been tried. Thousands more have been imprisoned in the past and eventually released. According to Israeli reserve soldiers and Israeli human rights organizations such as B' Tselem, many of these prisoners are tortured and beaten until they provide names of others for Israeli military and security forces to go out and apprehend.

Ari Shavit, an Israeli soldier who recently did reserve duty at the Gaza Beach Internment Facility, reports "hair-raising human screams" coming from Palestinians being tortured by the Shin Bet, Israel's internal security police, in the camp's interrogation sections. "And our ambassadors in Washington have explained to the networks over and over that we are the good guys and they are the bad guys," he writes. "And no one has risen to silence them in

Documenting the war inside the Gaza Strip

Gaza, A year in the Intifada: A Personal Account From an Occupied Land.
By Gloria Emerson, Atlantic Monthly Press, 1991.

Reviewed by Grace Halsell

GLORIA EMERSON, a respected journalist who has covered four wars, including Vietnam for The New York Times, has written a moving account of the Palestinian-Israeli war inside occupied Gaza, a rectangular slice of land 28 miles wide on the Mediterranean Sea. Her book is extremely valuable because of her eyewitness stories of the killing and beating of Palestinians inside this sliver of land with its huge refugee camps — and heavily armed Israeli soldiers, "with the greatest swagger that any army ever chose to have."

Many of her stories have a triumphant ring: Israeli soldiers ordered Palestinians to remove a large Palestinian flag-hanging

BOOK REVIEW

from power lines. A Palestinian mother, Fatmah, fearing for her sons, stepped forward, a volunteer. She found a pole, took down the cloth as an Israeli officer and soldiers from the Givati Brigade watched. Taking her time she neatly folded the flag, held it in her hands for a second and lowered her head to kiss it. Only then did she hand it over to the officer. The Israelis moved to strike. Fatmah stood, frozen, awaiting the blows. In that instance, "a miracle happened" — a UN van stopped and out stepped UNRWA refugee affairs officer Fred Brauer. Was there a problem? While he engaged them in conversation, Fatmah raced home. Safe for the moment.

But as Emerson makes plain, there are few such miracles, as the Israelis shoot and beat with little or no interference. She quotes the Anglican Archbishop of South Africa, Desmond Tutu, who visited Jerusalem and said a prayer for the Palestinian victims of the Sabra and Shatila massacre. "I am a black South African and if I were to change the names, a description of what is happening in Gaza and the West Bank could describe events in South Africa."

Emerson went to live a while in Gaza, one-fifteenth the size of the West Bank — because the Intifada began there. As she learned, each stone the Palestinians threw "was the answer to the long years when they were kept on their knees."

Emerson pays special tribute to Raji Sourani, a Gaza lawyer, repeatedly arrested, jailed and beaten — "but that only made him a more powerful presence for the best men were put in prison and it was expected of male patriots." She quotes the 36-year-old lawyer. "When they put this hood on your head, saturate it with water and close it — well, if it is closed for 40 seconds you are deeply thinking you are going to die. They expel tear gas inside it too."

Once after the Israelis momentarily removed the hood, Sourani saw a Shin Bet officer sitting with his feet up on a desk, the picture of a man completely relaxed and confident.

"Crucify him," the Israeli said to the others. "It was the order to shackle the prisoner on an iron door with bars, one arm manacled high above his head and the other arm below his waist so the body could not be straightened. And this is how he stayed until he fainted and found himself back in his cell." Sourani told Emerson he wanted to survive in order to do honor to the men who had gone before him in that grimy, desolate room: "It was only to be borne if you thought of all of those who had gone before you, the others who had crawled through every inch of it." ■

Dr Thomas R. Mattair has taught at Kent State University, the University of Southern California and Cornell University. His article on "The Bush Administration and the Arab-Israeli Conflict" appeared in the Spring 1991 issue of American-Arab Affairs. He travelled in Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the summer of 1991.

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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Un an après la crise du Golfe

L'état de l'économie jordanienne

OCTOBRE 1990: les premières conséquences de la crise du Golfe commencent à peser sur l'économie jordanienne. Dans les mois qui suivent, les sources de revenu du royaume se tarissent une à une. De l'aide des pays du Golfe à l'aide occidentale (notamment américaine) en passant par les activités du port d'Aqaba, le tourisme ou les salaires des travailleurs dans le Golfe, tous les robinets se ferment les uns après les autres.

Aujourd'hui, en octobre 1991, la Jordanie se sort plutôt bien de cette longue année d'un régime draconien. Malgré le retour des 300.000 travailleurs du Golfe qui viennent grossir les rangs des chômeurs, la monnaie reste stable et les réserves de change demeurent relativement confortables.

"C'est que le fardeau des Palestiniens et Jordaniens qui reviennent du Golfe a aussi un revers positif, explique le nouvel attaché commercial de l'Ambassade de France à Amman, Pierre Boedoz. Bien sûr le chômage touche aujourd'hui 25 à 30% de la population active mais beaucoup de ceux qui sont rentrés du Golfe ont rapatrié, du même coup, les avoirs qu'ils détenaient dans les banques locales. Il en résulte un apport en devises et une consommation accrue qui, dans un premier temps au moins, permettent de faire tourner l'économie."

En ne versant cette année que le tiers des sommes qu'elle devait verser pour rembourser sa dette extérieure, la Jordanie a conservé suffisamment de devises étrangères pour préserver la valeur du dinar. Celui-ci a d'ailleurs retrouvé dès le mois d'août son niveau d'avant la guerre: 145 dollars et 8,70 francs.

Reste qu'une telle situation n'est pas durable: les capitaux rapatriés du Golfe vont s'épuiser et la Jordanie ne peut pas se per-

RENOUVEAU L'ECONOMIE

Récompense

mettre d'ajouter tous les six mois 550 millions de dollars d'arriérés sur le paiement de sa dette extérieure. Un rééchelonnement de la dette s'impose, qui ne peut passer que par une poursuite du plan d'austérité imposé par le FMI en 1989. Une délégation d'experts du Fonds Mondial International a enclenché tout récemment une série de travaux visant à définir un nouveau plan d'ajustement structurel pour la Jordanie après la crise du Golfe. Les experts se sont montrés satisfaits, semble-t-il, de la bonne tenue de l'économie jordanienne jusqu'ici. Il est probable qu'ils demanderont au royaume de poursuivre ses efforts en allégeant les subventions sur certains produits, en augmentant les tarifs de certains services publics, en accélérant les privatisations et en gelant en partie les salaires dans la fonction publique. Ces mesures, qui ont pour inconvénient immédiat de ralentir l'économie et de dissuader l'investissement, doivent, à terme, la rendre plus saine et donc plus attractive et efficace. Grâce au maintien des réserves de change, une dévaluation du dinar comme celle de 1988 ne semble pas à l'ordre du jour.

En récompense de ces efforts la Jordanie peut espérer qu'une réunion du "club de Paris" autorise bientôt le rééchelonnement de sa dette, ce qui ouvrirait la porte à des accords de rééchelonnement bilatéraux.

"Traditionnellement, rappelle Pierre Boedoz, la France est un partenaire privilégié de la Jordanie. Elle représente le troisième fournisseur du royaume derrière l'Irak et les Etats-Unis. Elle est aussi son premier créancier avec un quart de la dette jordanienne, qui s'élève globalement à 8 milliards de dollars."

D'ores et déjà, la France vient de renouveler son aide d'urgence à la Jordanie: 20 millions de dollars, soit la même somme que l'an dernier. Pour ce qui est du rééchelonnement des dettes, il faudra attendre une nouvelle réunion du "club de Paris" que les experts estiment pouvoir se tenir, après accord du FMI, au début de l'année prochaine.

JMB

Les 45 bougies de l'ONU

BON anniversaire à l'Organisation des Nations Unies, qui vient d'avoir 45 ans. A cette occasion, l'antenne locale organise une journée spéciale le jeudi 24 octobre, au centre culturel Royal. Le Prince Hassan en sera le parrain. Vers midi, le secrétaire exécutif de la commission de Jordanie devrait prononcer un important discours sur le thème du "maintien de la paix et de la sécurité internationale". Un sujet parfaitement adapté à la période que nous traversons et qui devrait captiver une assistance en partie composée de ministres et de personnalités jordaniennes.

Orient express

■ **TURQUIE** - Le parti au pouvoir depuis 1983 en Turquie a perdu la majorité au Parlement à l'issue des élections législatives de dimanche dernier. Fondé par l'actuel président du pays, Turgut Ozal, le PMP est victime de sa politique de "libéralisme sauvage". Les vainqueurs du scrutin sont la droite traditionnelle et les islamistes qui font aujourd'hui leur retour au sein du Parlement.

■ **LIBERATIONS** - L'otage américain Jesse Turner, détenu depuis près de cinq ans au Liban, a été libéré lundi. Israël avait ouvert la voie en relâchant un peu plus tôt dans la journée quinze des 350 prisonniers qu'elle détenait dans sa "zone de sécurité" au sud Liban.

■ **ARMEMENTS** - Trois cents têtes nucléaires. C'est l'arsenal dont disposerait aujourd'hui Israël, si l'on en croit un journaliste américain auteur d'un livre sur le sujet. C'est une surprise pour les services secrets américains qui estimaient cet arsenal à moins de cent.

■ **IRAKIENS** - Le CICR, qui a rapatrié par autobus 71.000 prisonniers irakiens détenus en Arabie Saoudite à la suite de la guerre du Golfe, vient de révéler que 13.000 prisonniers avaient refusé de rapatriement. Ils sont considérés comme des réfugiés sur le territoire saoudien.

■ **CONNEXIONS** - Bagdad n'est plus coupée du monde depuis jeudi dernier. Son central téléphonique international, détruit par les avions de la coalition au tout début de la guerre du Golfe, vient d'être remis en service.

France en Bref

■ **CATASTROPHE** - 24 morts et 48 blessés. C'est le bilan officiel de la collision survenue jeudi dernier entre le train de voyageurs Nice-Paris et un convoi de marchandises en gare de Mandel. L'erreur humaine ou la défaillance de signalisation aurait conduit le mécanicien du convoi de marchandises à franchir un signal d'arrêt, avant de percuter le train de Nice.

■ **MANIFS** - Réaction de foudroiement du gouvernement français face à la montée de la contestation sociale. Suite aux exactions répétées commises par des communistes d'agriculteurs, le président François Mitterrand a réuni le premier ministre Edith Cresson et les ministres de la justice et de l'intérieur. Objectif: "Maintenir l'autorité de l'Etat". Une entreprise qui s'annonce difficile à la veille d'une nouvelle semaine de contestation. Agriculteurs, fonctionnaires, personnels du groupe Air-France et des transports aériens, tout ce beau monde risque de se retrouver en même temps dans la rue. Force Ouvrière et la CGT appellent à la grève générale le jeudi 24 octobre.

■ **REGIONALES** - Schwarzenberg le retour. Le célèbre candélogue français, ex-ministre de la Santé dans le gouvernement de Michel Rocard s'engage dans la bataille pour les élections régionales. Pas sur l'importance qu'elle liste: celle de Bernard Tapie. Pas d'importance: Léon Schwartzberg se présente à Nice dans le seul but de contourner le Front National - extrême droite - et son leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen.

En équilibre sur un texte de Genet

"Le funambule", c'est la rencontre périlleuse entre un fil, un acteur et le théâtre. Le fil a tué autrefois un équilibriste, l'ami intime de Jean Genet. Abdallah, fils d'un algérien et d'une allemande est tombé un soir en Belgique, puis une deuxième fois lors d'une tournée au Koweït. Pour lui, ce fut la catastrophe, puis le suicide. Il ne supportera pas sa longue rééducation, ni le fait de ne plus remonter sur cette scène très inconfortable. La pièce, écrite pour lui, fut son inexorable compte à rebours.

L'acteur d'aujourd'hui, c'est Pierre Constant, qui reprend le flambeau et tente à nouveau le saut périlleux. Il est aussi metteur en scène. Avant de monter sur le fil, Constant passe des studios de France Culture aux plateaux d'Opéra, de la Sicile au Maroc. Il vient du fin fond de la campagne française, d'un monde sans fioritures, d'un monde vrai, dépouillé: le Gers. Cette impression de vide, de nudité, il la retrouve et la fait partager au public, qui s'identifie à l'acrobate.

Enfin, le théâtre. Celui de Jean Genet, qui roule à contre-courant, qui confine au cirque et qui, paradoxalement, se rapproche de la solitude absolue. Le funambule, sorti en 1958, n'est qu'autoportrait d'un auteur qui s'éloigne des mondaines, qui vit dans des greniers ou des hôtels minables. "Le funambule", c'est une étrange alchimie, une sorte de théâtre qui ne tient qu'à un fil.

Le funambule, au Centre culturel Royal le samedi 26 octobre à 20h.

A VOIR...

Cycle Chabrol

● Cette semaine, le centre culturel français a choisi deux films de Claude Chabrol tournés en 1969. Lundi 28, à 20 heures, "La bête meurt" avec Michel Duchaussoy et Jean Yanne, dépeint le drame d'un homme dont le fils a été écrasé par un chauffeur qui décide de se faire justice lui-même. Mercredi 30, toujours à 20 heures, "Le Boucher" avec Stéphane Audran, directeur d'école, qui soupçonne son ami, Jean Yanne, d'être l'auteur d'une série de crimes.

Le Funambule



Clés pour la conférence de paix 1ère partie : Israël-Jordanie-Palestine

Ce sera à Madrid, mercredi prochain. La date et le lieu de la conférence de paix sont aujourd'hui connus. La Jordanie a été le premier pays à accepter officiellement l'invitation américano-israélienne, suivie par Israël dont le gouvernement a finalement voté la participation par 16 voix contre 3. Pour aider ses lecteurs à mieux comprendre les enjeux et le déroulement de cette conférence historique, le Jourdain ouvre aujourd'hui un dossier en deux volets sur les différentes parties prenantes et sur l'organisation générale des négociations. Cette semaine, l'accent est mis sur la délégation jordanienne-palestinienne. Jeudi prochain seront évoquées les délégations syrienne et libanaise ainsi que les problèmes des territoires qui seront également négociés.

Le calendrier

La conférence se déroulera en trois temps:
O 30 octobre: séance d'ouverture qui doit durer trois jours. Elle sera présidée par George Bush et Mikhail Gorbatchev. Onze délégations doivent y participer, qui seront représentées au niveau des chefs de délégation. Les participants sont: Israël, l'Egypte, la Jordanie et les Palestiniens, la Tunisie, l'Arabie Saoudite, le Koweït, les Emirats Arabes Unis, Bahreïn et Oman ont déjà donné leur accord pour y participer. La Syrie a annoncé qu'elle n'y participera que si Israël accepte le principe des territoires contre la paix.

O 2 novembre: ouverture des négociations bilatérales au sein des trois commissions concernées: Israël/Jordanie-Palestine, Israël/Syrie, Israël/Liban. Si les deux parties d'une même commission en font la demande, les Etats-Unis et l'URSS pourront offrir leurs services en tant qu'arbitres.

O 12 novembre: Ouverture des négociations multilatérales bilatérales sur les problèmes généraux de l'eau, du développement économique, du contrôle des armements et de l'environnement. Tous les pays

concernés y sont invités. L'Egypte, la Jordanie, le Maroc, la Tunisie, l'Arabie Saoudite, le Koweït, les Emirats Arabes Unis, Bahreïn et Oman ont déjà donné leur accord pour y participer. La Syrie a annoncé qu'elle n'y participera que si Israël accepte le principe des territoires contre la paix.

Le problème palestinien

Selon la trame définie par James Baker, le problème palestinien doit être résolu (sur la base des résolutions 242 et 338), en plusieurs étapes successives. La conférence doit tout d'abord définir un statut provisoire d'auto-détermination ("self-government") pour les Palestiniens des territoires occupés, qui sera mis en place un an après la tenue de la conférence pour une durée de cinq ans. Au début de la troisième année d'application de ce statut débuteront des négociations pour un statut définitif, qui devrait entrer en application au plus tard à la fin de l'année 1997.

La délégation jordanienne-palestinienne

Les problèmes de la Cisjordanie, de la bande de Gaza et de Jérusalem (voir ci-dessous) seront discutés par la commission

Focus

Jérusalem, ville de la paix

YITZAK Shamir refuse obstinément que des habitants de Jérusalem-Est fassent partie de la délégation jordanienne-palestinienne. C'est clair, pour le premier ministre israélien, ce ne sont pas des gens d'en face. Ils sont partie intégrante de ce qu'il considère comme la grande capitale unifiée et indivisible de l'Etat d'Israël. Pourtant, lors de la conférence de paix, les députés porteront sur le statut de la ville trois fois sainte: Jérusalem, selon l'ONU comme une ville plus de cent lieux saints, juifs, musulmans, et chrétiens. L'internationalisation de la ville de la paix - traduction de Jérusalem en Hébreu - sera sans nul doute au centre des débats. Cette ville est en train de remonter à la surface, elle trotte dans la tête de tous les responsables américains.



Arabe, israélienne ou internationale ?

tandis que le côté Est de la ville s'est retrouvé sous le drapeau du royaume de Transjordanie. La réaction de la communauté internationale sera vive: le 19 décembre 1949, l'ONU réclame l'internationalisation de Jérusalem. Mais cette résolution restera lettre morte. Tout comme celles de 1967, qui font partie de la protestation internationale, après l'occupation de la partie Est de la ville par Israël - résolutions 2253 et 2254.

Le 30 juillet 1980, Israël ira encore plus loin. La Knesset adoptera une loi fondamentale et proclamera "Jérusalem unifiée capitale du pays". Encore une fois, les Nations Unies dé-

sapprouvent cette décision unilatérale. Le conseil de sécurité adopte la résolution 478, et demande le retrait des missions établies dans cette ville. Lors du vote, les USA s'abstiennent, ce qui provoque des troubles dans les relations entre les deux pays. Côté arabe, on ne cesse de demander "la libération de Jérusalem", considérée comme ville occupée. La question sera au centre des débats lors de la conférence de paix de Madrid. Arabes et Israéliens, devront trouver un terrain d'entente. Les trois religions pourront peut-être un jour entamer une nouvelle cohabitation dans la "ville de la Paix".

La semaine de...

Suleiman Suleiss

Une paix forcée

"ON aurait dû recevoir la tenue de la conférence de Paix avec jubilation, surtout après 43 ans de guerres et de conflits. Or, le sentiment général au Proche-Orient est un mélange d'anxiété, d'énervement et d'expectative". C'est ainsi, qu'un rapport de Reuter décrivait l'atmosphère dans la région samedi dernier, à une dizaine de jours de la fameuse conférence de Madrid.

Pourquoi les doutes et la méfiance envahissent-ils les esprits au moment où les politiciens préparent les opinions publiques à fêter des jours qualifiés d'historiques? Les déclarations et les actes des israéliens en sont pour une grande partie responsables. Un commentateur jordanien décrivait ses sentiments de la manière suivante: "Les pieds qui se dirigent vers la conférence de paix tapent de plus en plus fort dans mes oreilles, mais quelque chose à l'intérieur de moi-même m'oblige à refuser de croire à un réel progrès sur la voie de la paix". L'auteur (1), nous rappelle les concessions des américains envers les israéliens sur la question de la représentation palestinienne et sur la colonisation. "Au lieu de faire pression sur Israël, ce sont des Etats arabes comme la Jordanie qui en ont subi".

Les israéliens ont donné des preuves que leur ennemi juré est bel et bien la paix. Même traînés de force, les israéliens iront bien à la conférence. Sans oublier de préciser qu'ils veulent conclure "un traité de paix", mais pas "un accord juste et définitif de paix".

Un véritable accord fondé sur les résolutions ayant une légitimité internationale, les 242 et 338, est en contradiction avec les visées expansionnistes et colonialistes des dirigeants israéliens. Car un tel traité serait censé définir les frontières de l'Etat Hébreu. Or, Israël, est toujours le seul Etat au monde qui refuse de définir ses limites territoriales. Shamir et ses compagnons n'hésitent pas à prétendre que "la Judée et la Samarie", noms qu'ils donnent à la Cisjordanie, sont des territoires "libérés" (sic). Le général Sharon considère que les montagnes de Salt en Jordanie appartiennent "au grand Israël".

Si l'Etat hébreu n'a pas encore annexé la Cisjordanie et la Bande de Gaza, si la Knesset n'a pas encore pris cette décision, ce n'est certainement pas par respect des résolutions de l'ONU et de la communauté internationale. Au cours de son existence, Israël a plusieurs fois démontré son mépris envers les prises de position Onusiennes. Rappelez-vous de l'annexion de Jérusalem en 1967, et de celle du Golan en 1981.

"Si nous annexions la population palestinienne, Israël serait un Etat bi-national avec environ 45% d'Arabes. Ainsi, le rêve sionniste d'établir un Etat purement juif serait saboté". Ces propos de Shimon Peres, chef de l'opposition travailliste datent de 1987. A ce moment là, les pays de l'Est n'avaient pas encore fait leur Perestroïka, Israël ne connaissait pas encore l'afflux de Juifs soviétiques. Depuis le vent souffle en faveur du projet sionniste. Si un accord de paix était conclu d'ici un an ou deux, il imposerait certainement des restrictions aux projets actuels et futurs de colonisation des territoires palestiniens occupés.

De leur côté, les régimes arabes ont bon espoir. Ils ont besoin de paix, car ils ne peuvent plus tolérer la situation actuelle. Si elle perdurait, leur impuissance serait démasquée. Ces pays ne doivent pas oublier que la guerre du Golfe les a plongés dans une situation difficile. Ils doivent aussi tenir compte de la déconfiture de l'URSS sur la scène internationale. Ils n'osent donc pas dire non à Washington, même si au fond, ils savent que la Maison-Blanche soutiendra toujours les grandes lignes de la politique israélienne. CQFD. C'est donc une paix forcée qui se profile à l'horizon.

A en croire les gens de la rue, les peuples arabes n'ont besoin ni de leçons ni de cours de "réalisme politique". Ils savent par avance qu'il est normal d'aller à la conférence de Madrid. Non pas parce qu'ils croient qu'elle a des chances d'aboutir. Mais parce qu'il n'y a pas d'autre choix possible.

Beaucoup en veulent aux régimes arabes qui au fil des années ont contribué à leur propre affaiblissement face à Israël. La dépendance économique chronique et le suivisme parfois aveugle vis-à-vis des puissances étrangères ne pouvait que les amener à la situation actuelle.

On nous promet de longues négociations. La conférence de Madrid pourrait constituer pour les Arabes un point de départ positif. Mais attention, seulement si leurs régimes voulaient bien tirer les leçons des 24 dernières années. Il faut accélérer le recours aux armes de la démocratie et du développement économique. Le peuple doit s'organiser en une véritable armée, qui se mobilise psychologiquement et matériellement.

Et ne foublions pas, les deux secteurs qui sont dévorés la plus grosse partie du budget israélien de 1992 sont l'armée et la construction des colonies! Quelle preuve de leur volonté de paix!

Lors de la conférence, il faudra établir une paix juste fondée sur la légitimité internationale. Cette paix verra-t-elle le jour? Une chose est sûre, si les arabes ne retrouvent pas leurs droits, la colombe sera insignifiante, fantomatique, inexistante.

(1) Docteur Abdullah Malik, Le Doustour du 15 octobre 1991.

The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
26 Oct. —
1 November

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — **Totally Hidden Video:** More fun with a gorilla that ran wild at the park, a house that is moved to the opposite street and blunders in translation.
9:30 — **Life on the Land.**
10:00 — **News in English.**
10:20 — **Feature Film, "Uncle Buck":** Funny Uncle Buck babysits three children surprisingly well, while their parents go out of town for a visit.

SUNDAY

8:30 — **The Golden Girls.** "Comedy of errors."
9:10 — **Murder She Wrote.** "From Russia with blood": Jessica goes to Moscow on a cultural exchange mission and helps solve a murder case that occurs while she is there.
10:00 — **News in English.**
10:20 — **The Orchid House.** "Natalie": Rich Natalie comes back from Trinidad to the island to take her father and Andrew for medical treatment. But the father does not make it, and Joan is being blackmailed by the priest who knows how Lilipoula died.

MONDAY

8:30 — **Hey Dad:** Family demands never end. The little girl wants her father to fix her toy, Simon wants a motorcycle and Jennie feels frustrated for not being able to get the requirements for art class.
9:10 — **The Mids Touch.** "The price of greed."
10:00 — **News in English.**
10:20 — **Gabriel's Fire, Part II of "To catch a con":** Gabriel calls his daughter, after being paroled by his attorney, to check on his granddaughter. His daughter offers to testify in court against officer Jack, but Gabriel stops her.

TUESDAY

8:30 — **Who's the Boss.** "One flow over the empty nest": Samantha goes to college and her father, Tony, would not leave her alone. She takes him to be over-protective, but later discovers that he only feels lonely.
9:10 — **Our House.** "Candles and shadows": David falls off his bike and goes through an intricate brain surgery. The soul of his dead father stands by him and helps him pull through safely.
10:00 — **News in English.**
10:20 — **French Feature Film.**

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — **Kate and Allie:** Kate and Allie invite their mothers to dinner and live to regret it.
9:10 — **Cosmos.** "The backbone of night": A scrutiny of the ancient Greek intellectual revolution and its interactions with the



The Case-book of Sherlock Holmes, Thursday at 9:10

Egyptian culture at the time.
10:00 — **News in English.**
10:20 — **Equal Justice:** Three white youngsters attack two black people, killing one and badly hurting the other.

THURSDAY

8:30 — **The Simpsons.**
9:10 — **The Case-book of Sherlock Holmes.** "The problem of Thor bridge": An American gold magnate helps defend his family's government, who was charged of killing his wife.
10:00 — **News in English.**
10:20 — **Movie of the Week.** "Honky tonk": Starring Clark Gable and Lana Turner. An old Hollywood movie about a young woman, Candy, who marries a gambler and insists on reforming him.

FRIDAY

8:30 — **Coach:** Christine discovers that she has no place in Haiden's future plans so she decides to leave him.
9:10 — **The last part of Shakespeare's tragedy "Othello."**
10:00 — **News in English.**
10:20 — **W.L.O.U.** "They shoot sources, don't they?": The vice president of a loans and securities company is shot dead by an angry investor. This happens during a Channel 12 coverage on fraud transactions in that company.

FRENCH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

6:00 — **Le chevalier du labyrinthe.** A game show program for children.
6:30 — **Les chevaliers du Ciel.** The adventures of pilots Tanguy and Laverdure.
7:00 — **News in French.**
7:15 — **Regards Interieurs.** "La scintigraphie."

SUNDAY

5:30 — **Les badaboks.** A puppet show for children.

5:50 — **A la découverte du 7ème continent.** La rivière sous la jungle. A program about the jungles of New Guinea north of Australia.
6:15 — **L'école des fans.** A program where children sing the songs of their favorite singers. This week's guest is a group called Les Vagabonds.
7:00 — **News in French.**
7:15 — **Carnet de notes.** A classical music program.

MONDAY

6:00 — **Le roi de Patagonie.** Eps. 1. Starring Omar Sharif and Clara Gravina. A drama series taking place in 1830 about a young man who claims to be related to emperor Napoleon III.
7:00 — **News in French.**
7:15 — **The weekly sports magazine.**

TUESDAY

6:00 — **Clementine.** A cartoon series about the adventures of a small girl with her dog.
6:30 — **Sixième gauche.**
7:00 — **News in French.**
7:15 — **French Varieties.**

WEDNESDAY

6:00 — **Le monde est à vous.** A game show and a variety program presented by Jacques Martin.
7:00 — **News in French.**
7:15 — **Azimuth.** A documentary program about Angola.

THURSDAY

6:00 — **Lola et les Sardines.** A series for children.
6:30 — **Maguy.** A comedy series about a woman and her husband.
7:00 — **News in French.**
7:15 — **Circus.**

FRIDAY

5:30 — **Les bottes de sept lieues.**
7:00 — **News in French.**
7:15 — **French Varieties.** A selection of French songs.

JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): The spotlight is on a relationship with someone who makes you feel comfortable. A member of the opposite sex offers constructive advice. Follow it. A platonic relationship intensifies.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): A change of scenery brings lots of fun this week. You will enjoy attending something with an international flavor. A romantic partner or close friend is deeply impressed with the way you handle people.

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June): Travel enjoys favorable influences this week. Keep expenses within limits. Self-improvement projects boost your ego. Real estate can be a terrific investment. Consult experts.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): If you ask questions, be prepared to receive some surprising answers. Peace of mind comes when you and your mate lay your cards on the table. Combine forces and you will win big!

LEO (23 July - 22 August): Put first things first. Fun and games will have to wait. If you have the solution to a family members' problem, step forward and say so. Travel leads to happy romance.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): A sermon holds a special message. A difference of opinion could lead to a stressful situation at home. Diplomacy helps you avoid a scene. Keep a low profile for a day or two.

LIBRA (23 September - 22 October): Pack your bag and take off. Travel is good for both your spirits and your pocketbook. New business contacts await. Let others help you for a change. A chance encounter proves enchanting.

SCORPIO (23 October - 21 November): A sermon or inspirational talk sets you on a new course. Better communication will solidify family ties. Ease up on your offspring; their ambitions and interests may differ from yours.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): Indulge a whim. Surround yourself with people who share your ideals and interests. Recreational pursuits should include as many family members as possible. Romance thrives on consideration.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): You cannot afford to do nothing if you receive a call for help. Spring into action! Good luck comes to those who pursue what they want from life. Contact influential friends.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): A good week to treat yourself to a special show or dinner at a favorite restaurant. Participation in active sports lifts your spirits. A child has a good entertainment idea. Welcome suggestions.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): Go slow on making promises to loved ones. Keep your personal and professional lives strictly separate. Romance could be disappointing. You spring back following a letdown.

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN are both emotional and intuitive. Absorbing hobbies will help these children handle their feelings of restlessness. Travel and geography inspire them, especially the study of oceans and water routes. A strong predilection for the sea makes a naval career an excellent choice. Encourage these youngsters to build up their bodies through exercise and good nutrition. It is vital that they wear properly fitted shoes as their feet are especially vulnerable. Romantic but serious-minded; they want to find that one special partner for life.

VIDEOVIEW

By Jay Bobbin

(Ratings for each film begin with an "asterisk" rating — one meaning "poor," four meaning "excellent" — followed by the Motion Picture Association of America rating, and then by a family-viewing guide, the key for which appears below.)

"YANKS" (MCA/Universal, Sept. 12, \$79.95): A wonderfully involving drama, director John ("Midnight Cowboy") Schlesinger's beautifully acted 1978 World War II story follows the romantic exploits of three American soldiers (Richard Gere, William Devane, Chick Vennera) who are stationed near an English village. Lisa Eichhorn, Vanessa Redgrave and Wendy Morgan play their respective love interests. (R: AS, P, V)

AROUND TOWN



PEOPLE

Congratulations!!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....

Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.



Mr. S. Al Sharif

Mr. S. Al Sharif, who has an MA in business administration, replaces Mr. Mahmoud Al Sherif as director-general of the newspaper. Mr. Sharif, who has an MA in business administration, replaces Mr. Mahmoud Al Sherif as director-general of the newspaper.



HRH Prince Faisal ben Al Hussein and HRH Princess Alia Al Faisal opened last Thursday in Helsinki the Bani Hamida exhibition for textiles. Over 730 women from the Bani Hamida community contributed to making the colorful rugs and carpets on display at the exhibition. Prince Faisal met with the president of Finland and conveyed His Majesty King Hussein's warm wishes. Finnish journalist Ms. Rita Tynjola, one of the organizers of this exhibition, said that holding such an exhibition in Helsinki, and having been visited by a large number of people definitely helped promote tourism to Jordan. The opening ceremony was attended by the Jordanian Ambassador to Finland Dr. Mohammad Al Odwan, a number of Finnish officials and the president of Lithuania.

held in Washington DC recently, the Amman Marriott Hotel was awarded an appreciation reward for the outstanding effort conducted by the department heads and employees in serving guests and visitors during the Gulf crisis, as expected from a deluxe five star hotel.

German group of artists called "The Blue Rider" on Saturday 26 October, at 10:30 am. The exhibition is organized by the Goethe Institute Amman.

At the British Council an exhibition by artist Fadia Jalal Nabulsi will be opened on Saturday 19 October, at 6 pm. It will last for one week.

Lectures

At the Goethe Institute Amman there will be a lecture in English by Dr. Mohammad S.S. Almani on "Behavioral Factors in Architectural and Urban Design." The lecture will be on Saturday 26 October, at 7 pm. Also at the Goethe Institute Amman, there will be a lecture in English by Dr. Safwan Al Tal, from the Department of Antiquities, on "Recent Developments and Future Plans." This will be on Tuesday 29 October, at 7 pm.

Music

Mr. Naser Shemma the famous Iraqi musician and composer will give a charitable concert in support of the Iraqi children at the Phoenix Experimental Art Center on Thursday and Friday, at 7:30 pm. Mr. Shemma is better known as "little Zeryab" for introducing the eighth string to the oud "lute" instrument. He also has been awarded many times and it is said that he has very romantic tunes.



The ICS held its annual International Food Fair on Friday 18 October. People of different nationalities were present and international dishes were there to tempt one's palate. The children, beautifully dressed, paraded to the music of the Jordanian Armed Forces Band and they received prizes. Also participating were the Royal Jordanian Folk Dancing Troupe and the school's choir.



Members of the Opera and Productions Ltd. group held a press conference on Monday to talk about their presentation at the Inter-Continental Hotel of "A Night At The Opera". Attending were the hotel's General Manager Mr. Majeed Khalaf and Barbara Segal, concert director, who said that the company has been able to bring together singers from the world's most well-known operas.

Under Royal Patronage

The opening of a new tourist project in Aqaba at a cost of JD 1.2 million

Simon Khoury:

Aquamarina 3 is a new leap for Petra International Hotels Co.

By Ahmad Al-Khamash

AQABA- Under the Royal Patronage, the Aquamarina 3 hotel in Aqaba was officially opened on Wednesday evening. The General Manager of the Aquamarina Hotels Mr. Simon Khoury said that it was no coincidence that the opening ceremony of Aquamarina 3 came at the beginning of the current tourism season in Aqaba. He added that the project came about after intensive studies and contacts with international tourism companies in France, Britain and other European countries, all of which had sent representatives who visited the hotel and expressed their admiration of its modern and luxurious facilities. Mr. Khoury said that these companies have confirmed their bookings for this and upcoming season. The JD 1.2 million project in Aqaba will be followed by other pioneering projects to be undertaken by Petra International Hotels Co.. The next project will be built in the historic city of Petra, Mr. Khoury said.

The Aquamarina 3, which is located on the Ring Road of Manara in the center of Aqaba, is a six-storey hotel with 55 rooms accommodating 120 rooms all of which are equipped with luxury furniture and facilities making it possible to offer excellent service to the hotel's clients.

The hotel has a swimming pool and a restaurant located on the six floor overlooking the sea and the city. The restaurant can cater for 80 people at once. The hotel is also served by a round-the-clock shuttle bus to take clients to Aquamarina 1, which is 10 minutes away, where they can enjoy the sea, sun and sand in addition to sea trips and water sports like sea surfing and scuba diving. Attending the opening ceremony were representatives of number of local and international companies, tourist operators and international airlines including Royal Jordanian, in addition to local officials.



